

that enhance lifetime health and fitness. The organization sponsors the PVA National Bass Trail which is officially sanctioned by the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.). Likewise, PVA created the National Trapshoot Circuit to give individuals with disabilities a chance to participate in the recreational and competitive sport of trapshooting. Most notably, PVA co-sponsors the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and other wheelchair sports programs along with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Games encourage veterans to become aware of their abilities and potential, as well as wheelchair sports that are available, while promoting a spirit of healthy activity and fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who work with PVA on a regular basis, we have come to rely on the dedication and expertise that this organization brings to Capitol Hill. I want to recognize the hard work and sacrifice that all of their officers, members and volunteers have made in order to improve the lives of their fellow veterans and fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as America continues our war on terrorism, like the wars of the last century against fascism, nazism and communism, the brunt of the battles will be borne by our men and women in uniform. Our nation has a sacred obligation, as President Abraham Lincoln said so eloquently, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." And we especially have an obligation to care for those who have suffered the most to protect our freedoms, such as paralyzed veterans.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is an honor to work hand-in-hand with Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the other veterans service organizations as we seek to improve the lives of paralyzed veterans and all of America's veterans and their families.

TRIBUTE TO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
AND HEALTH SYSTEM OF SOUTH  
BEND, INDIANA

**HON. TIM ROEMER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2002*

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to congratulate Memorial Hospital and Health System of South Bend, Indiana for its outstanding commitment to community service and for winning the Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service, sponsored by the American Hospital Association, Baxter International Foundation, and Cardinal Health Foundation. Each year only one institution earns this award, widely recognized as one of the most significant honors in the health care industry for demonstrating exceptional commitment to community service. This year's recognition of Memorial's innovative health care programs and expedited access to care is a fitting tribute to a community treasure.

Memorial has always demonstrated that strong community relationships and comprehensive programs are keys to quality community health. It is therefore appropriate, but not surprising, that Memorial has been honored for its proactive role in establishing a tithing system in which Memorial has allocated ten percent of its annual budget surplus, total-

ing \$20 million in nearly 100 community health programs. While Memorial was involved in community service long before it started tithing, this has most certainly contributed to a healthier community and encouraged other potential donors. Tithed funds have been used entirely for community outreach initiatives, including a children's health museum that has hosted more than 48,000 school children. I visited this museum and was deeply impressed by its unique approach to learning and helping kids understand healthy habits and safety. Additionally, Memorial has also established and expanded self-help groups for seniors and an enrichment program for homeless toddlers. These programs are just a few of the innovative approaches Memorial is pursuing to deliver first rate health care to the underserved population.

I am also particularly impressed by Memorial's active partnership with the South Bend Heritage Foundation, a neighborhood revitalization organization that repairs run-down houses and sells them at affordable prices to people who might not otherwise be able to own. I was proud to find that the spirit of community service is so strong here that more than 30 Memorial staff members have "adopted" one such house in a disadvantaged neighborhood near the hospital campus and are volunteering hours of their personal time and energy on rebuilding it, aiming for completion by this Memorial Day.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to congratulate Memorial Hospital and Health System for winning the Foster G. McGaw Prize, and for its extraordinary and continued dedication to bridging the health care gap for Hoosiers. I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing Memorial many more years of continued success. On behalf of a deeply thankful community, I salute Memorial's president and chief executive officer, Philip Newbold, and his entire staff for a job well done in earning this distinguished award.

HONORING ATHENA GEORGAKAKOS  
ONORATO

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2002*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Athena Georgakakos Onorato for her lifetime of distinguished service to the business world as well as the neighborhoods of Astoria and Jackson Heights in New York City. Ms. Onorato will be recognized on Saturday, April 13th by the Powhatan and Pocahontas Democratic Club for her long commitment to the organization and her community.

Born to Antonios and Maria Georgakakos in New York City and raised in Astoria, Queens, Ms. Onorato learned to play the piano at the early age of five, thanks to her piano teacher-mother. Ms. Onorato studied music at the New York College of Music where she received her piano diploma at age 20. Ms. Onorato also earned a B.A. in Economics from New York University. Upon graduation, she was employed as an economist at the American Petroleum Institute and became the first woman hired at Texaco, Inc. as an economist.

In 1987, Ms. Onorato joined Apple Bank for Savings and became Assistant Vice President

and Branch Manager when a new branch opened in Astoria in 1989.

In addition to her distinguished business career, Ms. Onorato has been tremendously active in her community, serving as President of the Hellenic University Club of New York, as well as the Broadway-Astoria Merchants and Professionals Association. She has served as a Board Member both of the Queens College Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies and the Greek American Homeowners Association. She has also served as Second Vice President of the United Community Civic Association.

Ms. Onorato was honored by the Broadway-Astoria Merchants Association in 1992 as "Woman of the Year" and in 1995 she was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in recognition of her ethnic and professional contributions, which was awarded by National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO).

In 1993 the former Athena Georgakakos married State Senator George Onorato, and they reside in Jackson Heights.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join the many others in her community in recognizing Athena Georgakakos Onorato for her lifetime of community involvement as prominent businesswoman and civic leader.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. VERDELL G.  
STONE

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 10, 2002*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Verdell G. Stone of Ridgeway, South Carolina. A woman dedicated to her faith and to her community, Mrs. Stone has served as a lifelong role model for others and has always been a woman of strength, integrity, and dignity.

Mrs. Stone has been a leader and matriarch for her family of eleven children, fifteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, as well as numerous other children in her church family and community. She has taken the responsibility of teaching them and bestowing upon them her Christian values by being an example. Mrs. Stone has served faithfully as a member of Antioch Baptist Church for more than fifty years, where she has held numerous positions of leadership, such as President of the Missionary Society, the Senior Choir, and Jubilee Choir. She is a former President of the Usher Board, and currently holds the title of Mother of the Church.

Because she has always served her family, her church, and her community with distinction and honor, the Ridgeway Community and the citizens of Fairfield County have deemed it appropriate to recognize Mrs. Stone for her many years of dedicated service. Mrs. Stone will be honored with a Verdell G. Stone Appreciation Day, this coming Saturday, April 13, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring Mrs. Verdell G. Stone, a woman whose contributions to her family, church and community are outweighed only by the immeasurable gratitude of those whose lives she has touched. We all appreciate Mrs. Stone for her many years of community and Christian service and extend to her our best wishes, and Godspeed.